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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Markolskee et al.

Application No. : 09/470,467

Group No.: 1619

Filed : December 12, 1999

Examiner: Jones, D.

For : INHIBITORS OF THE BITTER TASTE RESPONSE

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 16, 2001.

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Signature Carmella L. Stephens

Date of Signature August 16, 2001

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 27, 2001, please consider the following remarks. Applicants submit herewith a Petition for a Four Month Extension of Time accompanied by the required fee.

The Examiner has stated that the claims of the present application contain three inventions, which he has divided into the following groups:

Group I, claims 1-25, 40-49, 51-62 and 63, drawn to an *in vitro* method of identifying an inhibitor; and

Group II, claims 26-39 and 50, drawn to an *in vivo* method of identifying an inhibitor.

According to the Examiner, the inventions are distinct, each from the other because the inventions are unrelated.

In response, Applicants elect to pursue the claims of Group I in this application without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of non-elected claims in other patent applications. Applicants make their election with traverse, on the grounds that the claimed processes of Group I and Group II are conceptually linked, and would not require separate searches. Accordingly, Applicants request that the restriction requirement be reconsidered.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 02-4377. Two copies of this sheet are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmella L. Stephens

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